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Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

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Consideration of requests submitted under Article 5

Conclusions Committee on Article 5 implementation (Chile, Costa Rica, Switzerland and Zambia)

Addendum

Conclusions on the implementation of Article 5

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Iraq

I. Progress in implementation

1. Iraq reported that, in 2016, it addressed a total of 28,825,692 square metres, with 13,753,075 square metres of clearance in areas contaminated by anti-personnel mines, 14,237,346 square metres in areas of mixed contamination and 835,270 square metres of areas affected by anti-tank mines. Iraq reported that through these efforts at total of 42,393 explosive devices were destroyed.

2. The Committee concluded that the information shared by Iraq could be further clarified by using terminology consistent with the IMAS. The Committee further concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if all States implementing Article 5 obligations used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee noted the importance of Iraq continuing to provide information on progress made disaggregated according to areas released through clearance, reduction or cancellation.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

3. The Committee concluded that Iraq provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, and including in this list the estimated size of each area, the types and quantity, when known, of anti-personnel mines in each area, and information on the geographic location of each area.

4. Iraq reported that a total of 3,554 hazardous areas measuring 1,195,565,732 square metres remain to be addressed. Consisting of 2,897 areas confirmed to be hazardous representing 963,556,422 square metres and 657 areas suspected to be hazardous measuring 232,009,310 square metres. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Iraq's remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information, to the extent possible, on the number and size of areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

5. The Committee noted that Iraq submitted a request for extension in 2017 for consideration by the Sixteenth Meeting of the States Parties. In the request Iraq provided a 10 year clearance work plan, (2018-2027), with IKMAA and DMA providing a detailed work plan for the period 2018-2019 based on current capacity available. The Committee concluded that more specific information on its non-technical survey efforts would be welcome.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

6. The Committee noted that Iraq has reported applying current land release standards to further enhance efficient and expedient implementation.

V. Mine risk reduction

7. Iraq reported in detail on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including through mine risk education programs and trainings. Iraq reported a total 40,029 beneficiaries from MRE for the reporting period.

Oman

Progress in implementation

8. Oman reported that there are no confirmed hazardous areas in Oman. Oman further reported that despite the fact that no accident resulting from anti-personnel mines has been reported over the last 20 years, there are some suspected hazardous areas (SHA) as a result of rebellious activities in the 1960s and 1970s. Oman indicated that these SHAs are difficult to access but that they are marked and fenced. Oman further reported that it has formed a Committee that will prepare a plan for clearance. Oman reported that the SHAs are located in the Dhofar province and that in 2016, the area of Sarfit was cleared with some support.

9. The Committee concluded that further information on the identification and precise location of SHAs would be welcome as well as on the outcome of survey and clearance activities. The Committee further concluded that additional information on efforts to locate and address these areas ahead of Oman's 1 February 2025 deadline, including a work plan with milestones, would also be welcome.

South Sudan

I. Progress in implementation

10. In 2016, South Sudan reported having cancelled 17,166,302 square metres, reduced 71,399 square metres and cleared 10,538,076 square metres for a total of 27,775,777 square metres addressed destroying in the process a total of 585 anti-personnel mines, 200 anti-tank mines, 20,190 items of UXOs and 201,589 small arms munition.

11. The Committee concluded that it was important for South Sudan to continue providing information on progress made disaggregated according to areas cancelled through non-technical survey, reduced through technical survey and released through clearance.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

12. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of remaining areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines and information on the geographic location of most areas including by annexing maps. South Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, 236 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel totalling 80,904,786 square metres remained to be addressed. The Committee concluded that clarifications with respect to confirmed hazardous areas which are not detailed in the tables and the discrepancy between the reported 248 areas remaining to be addressed and 236 areas as recorded in Table 1 would be welcome.

13. The Committee concluded that while the amount of area remaining to be addressed at the end of 2015 totalled 98,403,022 square metres and the amount of area addressed in 2016 totalled 27,775,777 square metres clarity concerning the size of the remaining challenge reported by South Sudan would be welcome.

14. The Committee concluded that with survey activities ongoing, the remaining challenge could be further clarified by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas required to be addressed in the context of Article 5 obligations.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

15. South Sudan reported that the conflict has made access to some areas difficult for mine action teams to carry out survey and clearance in suspected hazardous areas. South Sudan reported that if the security situation improves, there is a need to carry out survey in

the conflict affected areas to ascertain in the status of those areas. The Committee concluded that updates on survey efforts and the results of these efforts would be welcome.

16. South Sudan reports that, in spite of this, through non-technical and technical survey efforts, land has been either cancelled or prioritised for clearance.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

17. In 2016, the Committee noted that South Sudan reported that all land release endeavours are implemented in line with National Technical Standards and Guidelines (NTSGs) which are based on the most up-to-date International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). South Sudan further indicated that once survey is completed it is either cancelled through non-technical survey or prioritized for technical survey and clearance.

V. Mine risk reduction

18. The Committee concluded that South Sudan had reported in detail on the actions it had taken to effectively educate civilians with age appropriate and gender sensitive mine risk education (MRE) programmes specifically targeting internally displaced persons, returnees and primary school children. MRE is included in national primary school curriculum. In 2016, South Sudan reported that its MRE programmes reached a total of 385,283 beneficiaries.

Sudan

I. Progress in implementation

19. Sudan reported that, in 2016, it addressed 13 areas measuring 4,885,725 square metres known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including 1,044,104 square metres addressed through clearance, 2,337,945 square metres reduced and 1,503,676 square metres cancelled, destroying in the process 105 anti-personnel mines, 24 antitank mines and 8,851 items of unexploded ordnance.

20. The Committee concluded that the information provided by Sudan on progress in implementation allowed for comparability with that provided previously, particularly in its 2013 extension request. The Committee further concluded that this information was disaggregated in a manner consistent with previous recommendations endorsed by the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

21. The Committee concluded that Sudan had provided a high degree of clarity regarding its remaining challenge by providing a list of all remaining areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, including the estimated size of each area, and information on the geographic location of each area. Sudan reported that, as of the end of 2016, there was a total remaining challenge of 19,137,285 square metres. This included, 55 areas known to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 2,604,237 square metres and 44 areas suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totalling 16,533,04 square metres remained to be addressed.

22. The Committee noted that due to the need to account for new hazards and the ongoing resurvey of existing hazardous areas, the number of areas to be addressed had increased from the number Sudan reported previously, from 102 to 112. The Committee noted that Sudan's effort to implement Article 5 was only part of the totality of efforts required to address explosive hazards in the country. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Sudan's remaining challenge could be further clarified by

presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas identified as a result of ongoing re-survey efforts.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

23. The Committee recalled that Sudan provided a detailed plan in its 2013 extension request covering the period 2013-2015 and projections of the number of areas and amount of area to be released each year from 2013 to 2019, leading towards completion by Sudan's 1 April 2019 deadline. Sudan, submitted an updated work plan with a revised number of areas per state that it intends to address during the period 2016 to 2019. Including 43 areas measuring 7,324,853 square metres in 2016; 35 areas measuring 6,385,382 square metres in 2017; 24 areas measuring 5,085,217 square metres in 2018; and 10 areas measuring 2,118,840 square metres in 2019 (to 1 April 2019).

24. Sudan reported that the plan under the extension request was based on the assumptions that there will be an improvement in the security situation in all the regions contaminated by mines. ERW and required funds will also need to be secured to implement programme activities. Sudan reported that the other factors that may hamper the implementation includes, conflict, frequent movement of population, finding additional hazards, high metallic soils, and the rainy season.

25. Sudan reported that during 2016 the eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity.

26. Sudan provided an update on milestones expected towards completion with 63 areas to be addressed in 2017; 27 areas to be addressed in 2018, and; 10 areas to be addressed in 2019. The Committee noted a small discrepancy in the number of areas reported by Sudan as remaining to be addressed.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

27. In its 2013 extension request, Sudan provided a description of its land release methods, noting that these are undertaken in accordance with the United Nations International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) and specifying the criteria used to cancel land through technical and non-technical survey. In its 2015 report, Sudan provided additional details on its land release process. The Committee concluded that, as Sudan reported that it was reviewing its national technical standards, Sudan may, in the near future, be able to provide additional information on the application of the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, pursuant to Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

28. The Committee recalled that the Thirteenth Meeting of the States Parties (13MSP) had requested that Sudan provide updates with respect to a variety of commitments made and milestones contained in its extension request.

29. The Committee concluded that Sudan had reported in detail on each of these matters. The Committee noted that, with respect to information provided on survey efforts and on the security situation, Sudan reported that security wise eastern states were accessible for the demining operations, while access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile states was limited for clearance and survey operations due to insecurity situations. The Committee also noted that, with respect to information on financing, Sudan reported that in 2016 the Sudan Mine Action Programme received 5,985,582 USD from different donors and that in addition the Government of Sudan supported the programme by providing salaries for staff of the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), the operational costs of the NMAC by allocating 2 million USD. Sudan further reported that there was a 4.4 million USD gap in funding for 2016.

30. Sudan further reported that the database clean-up effort was ongoing and could not be finalised in 2016. The Committee concluded that given the importance of ensuring that the national program counts on clear and up-to-date information on the status of operations, updated information on progress in this area would be welcome.

31. Sudan further reported on its efforts to facilitate the operations of international demining organisations and to expand indigenous demining capacity, and the result of these efforts.

VI. Mine risk reduction

32. Sudan reported on the actions it has taken to effectively exclude the population from CHAs and SHAs, including through the marking of hazardous areas.

Yemen

I. Progress in implementation

33. Yemen reported that from April 2016 to March 2017 it addressed a total of 130 suspected hazardous areas. Releasing a total of 4'703'279 square metres by survey and clearance. This resulted in the destruction of 14,397 anti-personnel mines and 11,457 anti-tank mines. Yemen reported that since 1999 a total of 1,624 suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) totalling 1,217,345,061 square metres have been addressed.

34. The Committee concluded that progress in implementation could be more clearly presented if Yemen used terminology contained within, and in a manner consistent with, the IMAS. The Committee also concluded that Yemen could provide increased clarity concerning progress by employing the Guide to Reporting adopted by the Fourteenth Meeting of the States Parties.

II. Clarity regarding remaining challenge

35. The Committee concluded that Yemen had provided clarity regarding its remaining challenges by providing a summary table of all remaining SHAs in 18 provinces, including the estimated size of the area concerned. Yemen reported that as of the end of 2016 569 SHAs totalling 323,480,306 square metres remained to be addressed.

36. The Committee concluded that, with survey activities ongoing, Yemen could significantly increase clarity on Yemen's remaining challenge by presenting more precise information on the number of areas and size of these areas.

III. National plans for clearance and survey

37. Yemen reported that the cooperation between the Yemen Mine Action Programme and UNDP is strengthened and that UNDP is currently working with YEMAC to build the capacity of YEMAC in the field of management and in technical issues. Yemen also reported that the YEMAC will move under the direct management of the UNDP. Yemen further reported that the Yemen Mine Action Programme through the support of UNDP is going to work with NGOs in some mine action activities as the new challenges which Yemen faces required the cooperation between YEMAC/UNDP and other NGOs.

38. Yemen reported that the Government of Yemen with support of UNDP established an emergency plan for clearing mines and ERW with this plan having started in April 2015. Yemen reported that it has changed the structure of the Yemen Mine Action Programme according to the emergency plan approved by the government of UNDP.

39. Yemen reported that it plans to re-survey 18 governorates from 2017-2020 intending to release a total of 20 areas 73 areas totalling 43,646,466 square metres in 2017, 112 areas

totalling 51,581,700 square metres in 2018, 157 areas totalling 65,358,990 square metres in 2019 and 227 areas measuring 162,893,150 square metres in 2020. Yemen reported that additional contamination could be found.

40. The Committee concluded that more information would be welcome to understand how this ambitious plan will be implemented.

IV. Efficient and expedient implementation

41. Yemen reported in 2017 that it employs technical survey, manual mine clearance and mine detection dogs in its efforts to address its contamination challenge. Yemen also indicated that these efforts are carried out in accordance with international and Yemeni standards. Yemen further reported that the technical survey is the first essential step to identify and verify the location of minefields, to draw contamination maps and conduct clearance in small minefields, in addition to the survey teams making large area reduction and area cancellation.

42. The Committee concluded that Yemen may benefit from ensuring, in a manner consistent with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan that the most relevant land release standards, policies and methodologies, in line with the IMAS, are in place and applied for the full and expedient implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee concluded that information on enhancements that Yemen has undertaken to ensure efficient and expedient implementation in accordance with Action #9 of the Maputo Action Plan would be welcome.

V. Actions in accordance with plans in extension requests and decisions on them

43. The Committee recalled that in granting the extension request the Third Review Conference had requested Yemen to provide information on efforts to diversify funding covering the costs of implementing Yemen's national plans for survey and mine clearance, efforts to update, develop and apply national mine action standards that are in line with the IMAS, and changes in the security situation and how these changes positively or negatively affect implementation. The Committee concluded that continued updates on Yemen's progress regarding these matters would be welcome.

44. The Committee concluded that Yemen was continuing to act upon the commitment made in its extension request of keeping the States Parties appraised of progress made and by having submitted an updated work plan in 2015.

VI. Mine risk reduction

45. Yemen reported that MRE activities during the period of 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 were ongoing in 9 governorates (Ibb, Mareb, Hajjah, Amran, Abyan, Al Hodaydah, Lahij, Aden and Sana'a) in cooperation with UNICEF. Yemen reported that field visits were conducted to 674 villages and locations targeting a total of 220,332 people of which 104,811 were female and 115,521 were male.